

METRO TEAM

UPDATE

The METRO TEAM is a group of Greater Newark area church people and community activists who assemble weekly (Friday mornings, 9:30 - 11:00, 969 McCarter Highway, Newark) for support, information sharing, reflection and action.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION NEWS: CANDIDATES' FORUMS

Coalition Six is a community based non-profit organization began by six inner-city Roman Catholic parishes in Newark, and now consists of 44 different community based churches.

Coalition Six held a series of Candidates' Nights during the pre-election period. Candidates for city council from each ward were featured at a site in the ward. They were given a series of questions prepared ahead of time and asked by selected representatives of local community groups. The questions aimed at pinpointing the candidates' thinking and planning on specific issues of importance to the people of the area. Questions have been raised concerning housing, taxation, education, crime, utility bills, and so on. The candidates' answers were taped and transcribed. The plan is that with the help of these transcripts the community will be able to review the issues and answers, holding the candidates accountable for their campaign promises and monitoring the progress in different areas of concern.

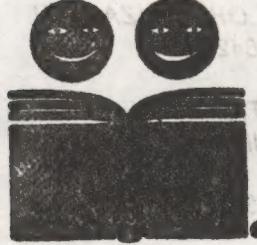
A total number of seven forums were held. The first forum featured the mayoral candidates. It was a big success, with six candidates, including incumbent Kenneth Gibson, Earl Harris and Junius Williams on the panel. It was attended by 500+ people and received wide press coverage. Six other forums followed in the succeeding weeks, one in each of the five wards, and one for the council-at-large.

The following events are planned for the candidates in the runoff elections June 15:

May 27, Central Ward; St. Ann's Lyceum
June 1, West Ward; St. Rocco's School
June 3, South Ward; Blessed Sacrament Church Hall
June 7, At-Large; site to be named
June 10, Mayoral; site to be named
(all begin at 7:30 p.m.)

For further information, and a chance to review any of the transcripts, please contact, Frank Hurtz, Coalition Six Chairperson, at 622-2313

NEWARK PROJECT READ



to be a tutor...
to bring a student...
call 623-9226
Ms. Carolyn Bishop

KEEPING THE NEWARK PLAN ON THE MAP

The METRO TEAM is vitally concerned that the Newark Plan for minority employment is taken seriously in the downtown Newark construction-revitalization process.

Launched in the 1970's the plan worked well for the Medical School, Essex County College, Newark International Airport, Rutgers-Newark, Board of Education and tax-abated construction. Now the main action is Renaissance Newark-related construction.

The issue: Whether the City of Newark will enforce the Newark Plan for this tax-abated work. In particular, will the city's Affirmative Action Review Council perform in a compelling, no-nonsense manner?

The METRO TEAM and related organizations plan at an early date to intervene with the City Council, whose policy, via ordinance, is that the Newark Plan go forward. In other words, will the City Council call for strict performance by the city in the minority employment area? The METRO TEAM intends to press on this one....

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God."

Matt. 5:9



VOICE YOUR PEACE JUNE 12

June 7 - July 9 Representatives of all the nations of the world will gather in New York for the Second United Nations Special Session on Disarmament.

While they join to have a focussed discussion on Disarmament concerned people have the opportunity to gather in mass in CENTRAL PARK ON SATURDAY, JUN 12. Together we can encourage, support and pressure the World's Governments to take concrete steps toward disarmament. An important concern that will be raised at this rally is that MILITARY SPENDING BE REDIRECTED TO MEET HUMAN NEEDS such as housing, health care and education.

Transportation is available through the Department of Human Concerns at the Archdiocese of Newark, 1 Summit Avenue, Newark, N.J. 07104 (201) 483-8500. Send \$4.25 name, address, and phone no. for reservations. Busses will leave Sat., June 12th at 9:00 a.m. from Seton Hall University, South Orange and St. Philomena, Livingston.

On Friday, June 11, the day before the Mass Rally, International Religious Convocation will begin at noon at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Spiritual leaders from around the world will pray with one voice for peace and disarmament. At approximately 3:00 p.m. convocation participants will process to the U.N. where there will be an all night prayer vigil.

For more information call (201) 744-3261

PEACE RALLY

U.N. Plaza
JUNE 12



CRISIS IN URBAN EDUCATION

M.E.M. Project Schools is organizing a conference on urban education in cooperation with the commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ, and the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organizing.

Urban education is under attack. There are factions which have written off the public school system as no longer useful. Others say that city children cannot learn. These perceptions may apply in certain cases, do not in some others. Our job as urban advocates and parents must be to change those perceptions. We, too, must admit, understand and respond to this clouded vision of our schools.

We must admit that our children are, in some cases, allowed to graduate out of the public school system with less than adequate preparation for the tasks of adulthood. Too many of our youth are functional illiterates - a reality which will force them to be dependent throughout their lives. In admitting to the existence of such failures on the part of the educational establishment we can and must begin to take a responsive and responsible look at our own role in improving the lot of our youth - our leaders of tomorrow.

PROJECT SCHOOL is ready to join forces with a wider sector of the community in order to effectively counter the negative perceptions and less than adequate products which are seen as the urban experience in education.

Who should participate in such a conference on urban education? Parents, community and labor organizations concerned with education, church people, educational activists and advocates committed to working for effective education.

What must be done? Growing out of this conference, we must work to develop a program of effective education.

What must be done? Growing out of this conference, we must work to develop a program of effective schools and classrooms. We will plan training sessions and skills workshops for parents to empower them to become more knowledgeable, less fearful and better prepared to sit down as equals with educators, administrators, teachers unions, Boards of Education, etc. and collectively work for effective schools.

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom yet deprecate agitation are people who want crops without plowing up the ground; they want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters. Power concedes nothing without demand. It never did and it never will. Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have found out the exact measure of injustice and wrongs which will be imposed upon them."

Frederick Douglass, 1857

Problem: Crisis in EDUCATION

Solution: EFFECTIVE SCHOOL...EFFECTIVE CLASSROOM

A Conference for Parents and Citizens

Friday, June 4, 6:30 - 9:30 P.M.

Speaker, Buffet Supper

Saturday, June 5, 9 A.M. - 6 P.M. presentations, workshops, presentations, luncheon

Essex County College, High and West Market Streets, Newark, New Jersey

For info call Mary Snodgrass at 623-9259

A group of individuals from the Ironbound area of Newark has been effective in educating people about the possible dangers existing in their community, and perhaps averting that danger.

Within the last year and a half, these individuals have gotten together and formed the "Committee Against Toxic Waste". They began learning about plans to store toxic waste in the area, either to be shipped out to sea to be disposed of, or to be incinerated at the site. A list of ten different sites was compiled where this most dangerous kind of toxic waste had been stored, with plans for the establishment of more sites. All this within 400 to 500 feet of residential areas. There is ample evidence of the harmful effects of these wastes, both short and long term on the health and well-being of people exposed to it.

The Committee has held public meetings, petition drives, Radio and TV announcements and guest appearances, spoken to church groups, participated in environmental activities such as "Earth Day", had City Council resolutions proposed and passed. It has been effective in educating a wide range of people to this problem. Currently, the Committee's activities have been instrumental in having the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection hold hearings about the placement of these toxic waste storage and incinerator sites. This is a victory for the people of the community speaking in a united voice. The Ironbound Community Corporation works closely with the Committee, providing a staff person for this organizing effort.

For further information please contact:

Arnold Cohen at 589-4668

URBAN RESOURCES:

* PEOPLE'S ENERGY COOPERATIVE
Coop purchasing of fuel oil
LARRY HAMM 375-5837

* FOOD CO-OP
SPENCER GIBBS 673-1100

* TENANT ORGANIZING
COALITION FOR A UNITED ELIZABETH
CARRIE THOMAS 354-1811
MYRA SATTERFIELD 355-2557
(Tenant Association President)
NEWARK TENANTS ORGANIZATION
FRANK HUTCHINS 642-5255

* AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY
A call for unity, a call for victory
May 22 at the U.N.
for info. call 648-5043

* SAVE LEGAL SERVICES!
Contact HARRIS DAVIS
Essex County Legal Services 624-4500

* METRO TEAM
Friday, May 21
Speaker, Mr. Victor De Luca, recent candidate for City Council-at-Large will speak on the NEWARK campaign.

For METRO TEAM information and request for agenda time, call Rev. David Burgess (744-5160) or Mr. Wilbur Haddock (623-9259) co-convenors.

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